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EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.

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U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Sherman's bill to prevent speculation in gold and foreign exchange, was taken up and debated. In his speech in favor of the passage of the bill, Mr. Sherman said that the Committee on Finance were in great doubt as to its producing any efficacious result. The bill was discussed until the close of the session.

The House of Representatives refused to concur in the Senate's amendment to the bill establishing a Territorial Government for the Territory of Montana, by recommending that the House concede the right of suffrage to every male citizen; striking out the word "white," by a vote of 53 yes to 83 nays. The bill authorizing the establishment of mail steamship communication between the United States and Brazil was passed. By the provisions of the bill an annual subsidy, not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, is to be given to the company organizing the line of steamers. The bill compelling all railway companies to carry the mails, for such compensation as is now allowed by law, was taken up and passed. The bill establishing a uniform postal money order system, was also passed.

The National Intelligencer, in some comments on the proposition to expel Mr. Long from the U. S. House of Representatives says:—"We know at a time of revolution like that in which we live, when material force in unexampled magnitude is invoked as an element of political power, there is a constant temptation to make this species of force the ally of party in all spheres of political activity. The intolerance of political dissent passes by an easy transition into the opposition which measures its blows not by the comparative weight of arguments, but by the preponderance of physical power, and it is precisely because of this tendency, in a revolutionary time, that thoughtful men should be slow to yield in check of parliamentary discussion, the argument of numerical superiority. This array of numerical force to beat down opposition belongs to the battle-field, not to the arena of debate."

The iron-clad frigate *Re de Italia* arrived at Gibraltar in safety, after fourteen days' passage. Nothing has been heard as to the fate of the *Re de Galantuomo*.

One sign of progress in Washington is that it has been determined to furnish several of the public school-houses with pianos, the Committee on Music having contracted for four of Chickering & Son's.

There is a renewed "oil fever," as it is called, in Pennsylvania and western Virginia.—The coal lands where the oil is made or found, have increased in value.

The reported sinking of the Confederate ram *Tennessee* in Mobile bay was untrue.

A dispatch from Cairo, yesterday, announces that Fort Pillow, has been captured by the Confederate forces, under General Forrest.—Omitting the accounts of the "Horrid Massacre" of the garrison and the "revolting atrocities committed by the victors," as detailed in the telegraphic dispatches to the Northern papers, but which are pronounced by the *Washington Star*, gross exaggerations, the facts, as far as can be gleaned from the quantity of "chaff" given to the public, appear to be, that on the 12th, the Fort was attacked, and after twice summoning the garrison to surrender, and twice meeting with a refusal, the works were carried by storm, the Confederates killing, wounding and capturing the entire command, some six hundred in number. Six guns were also captured, and carried off, including two ten-pound Parrots and two twelve pound howitzers. A large amount of stores were destroyed or carried away. The dispatches state that the steamer *Platte Valley* came up about half-past three, and was hailed by the Confederates. Under a flag of truce, men were sent ashore to bury the dead, and take on board the wounded. Fifty-seven were taken on board, including seven or eight negroes.—Eight died on the way up; and then, what is most remarkable, if the report of the atrocities has any foundation whatever, the dispatch adds: "While the steamer *Platte Valley* lay under a flag of truce, taking on board the wounded, several rebel officers, among them Chalmers, went aboard, and some of our officers showed them great deference, drinking with them, and showing them other marks of courtesy."

Fort Pillow, says the *New York Express*, "is located on the Mississippi River just above, and in full view of, so as to command Memphis. It was captured from the Confederates by the flotilla of Admiral Foote, some eighteen months ago,—and since that time it has been held by the Federal forces. The post had been materially strengthened, and the impression was that it was impregnable to any demonstration that might be made against it." It was believed that after the fall of Fort Pillow, Gen. Forrest would move at once on Memphis.

Gov. Bradford, of Md., has ordered an election to be held on Wednesday, the 27th instant, in the fourth (Rockville) election district of Montgomery county, Md., to take the sense of the people on the propriety of calling a constitutional convention, and for the choice of delegates thereto. It appears no election was held in the Rockville district, on the 6th instant, because the judges, it is alleged, refused to comply with certain orders said to have been given by a military officer. The democratic ticket had a majority in the other districts of the county of about 170.

On Monday night last, a captain of the 2d Pennsylvania reserves was killed, and from six to thirteen of his men were captured in the vicinity of Union Mills, near the battle-ground of Bull Run, by the Confederates.

The *Port Tobacco Md., Times* says: "On Friday last a party of negro troops, about a dozen in number, commanded by a white officer, landed at Chapel Point and took up their line of march for this place. On their route they stopped at Dr. F. R. Wills' and H. A. Neale's, and forcibly took off all the able-bodied negroes they could find. From this place, they visited the farm of Mrs. Floyd and brought off some six or more recruits. Since this, squads have been visiting different sections of our county—in some cases unattended even by a white man, and forcibly taking off all they could lay hands upon, without regard to the peaceful or martial tastes of the unfortunate victim.—In this manner, these recruiting squads roam through the county with none to question their authority, or dispute their progress. If this state of affairs continues much longer, we can only say that the draft here, so far as able-bodied negroes are concerned, will be indeed a "blank haul." Altogether, there has never been known within the memory of man such a rumpus among the darkey population. Work upon many farms has been entirely suspended. Many have betaken themselves to the woods whilst others are flocking towards Washington, doubtless hoping in this way to dodge the privilege of donning the shiny blue uniform so liberally offered for his acceptance."

The *New York Times'* Paris correspondent says "that one of the vessels built at Bordeaux has been launched, and an English vessel is lying there with her equipments. Her builders have been compelled by the French government to give bonds that none of the vessels he is constructing shall pass into Confederate hands. The two iron-clads will not be ready for launching for three months, but the other three wooden vessels, will soon follow their consort. The French government has enclosed the *Rappahannock* in a dock at Calais and placed a man-of-war in front of it."

The steamer *Corsica* has arrived from Havana, via Nassau on the 11th. The schooner *Petrol*, at Nassau from Charleston, reports the loss of the steamer *Juno*, from Wilmington for Nassau. She broke in two and sank, and nearly all hands were drowned. The steamers *Syren* and *Coquette* had arrived from Wilmington. The *Grey Hound*, *Syren* and *Will-of-the-Wisp* had sailed to run the blockade.

Seven negroes have been tried at New Orleans for the murder of a Mr. Neff, near Port Hudson, Louisiana, and three of them sentenced to be hanged.

The will of the late Archbishop Hughes has been admitted to probate in New York. It bequeaths the bulk of his property to his brothers, and the remainder to Bishops McClosky, Kendrick, and Fitzpatrick.

A French armed transport left Fortress Monroe for Richmond on Thursday, intending to bring down tobacco belonging to the French Government.

Prince Charles Bonaparte, cousin of the Emperor, has arrived at Martinique, en route to Mexico, with the regiment in which he is captain.